

*Socialist  
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# The WAR ON TERROR



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# In this issue of Socialist Review

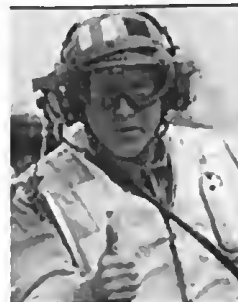


## POLICE TERROR

**I**t's a fundamental attack on civil liberties. It's sparked protests across the country and around the world. But despite the weakness of the police case, the government is tightening "anti-terror" laws. We look at the issue and your rights with the police

## IS BUSH WINNING IN IRAQ?

**F**our years after Bush declared "mission accomplished" in Iraq, there has finally been a downturn in violence. The media and politicians have seized on it as proof that the US occupation is pacifying Iraq. But there is a lot more to the story - see page 6



## PROTESTS IN SOUTH KOREA

**T**oby Campbell went to South Korea to teach English. He ended up getting a lesson in truly militant protest - see page 8



## RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

**T**hough you won't hear about it on Anzac Day, the October Revolution was probably the decisive cause of the end of world war one. Inspired by October, soldiers on all sides refused to die for King and Country - see page 10



## WHO'S TO BLAME FOR SEXISM?

**T**he past 30 years have seen substantial shifts in the ways women experience oppression. But the underlying oppression remains.

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# Terror raids and frame-ups



*When around 300 heavily armed police stormed the sleepy little town of Ruatoki early on the morning of October 15, in "anti-terror" raids, they stomped all over the credibility of the New Zealand political system.*

October's nationwide police raids on activists in New Zealand have proved to be a total beat-up. Despite the hysteria from Labour PM Helen Clark about the supposed napalm-using armed quasi-military group in the remote rural area of Urewera, no one has been charged under the anti-terror legislation. In fact, the Solicitor-General has disallowed police from prosecuting those arrested under the Terrorism Suppression Act due to "insufficient evidence". And no wonder! The only "evidence" that the police managed to dig up was just four guns. Your average farmer probably has that many in his or her shed!

## Right wing terrorism

The only terrorist incidents in recent New Zealand history have been carried out by the right (the murder of Wellington Trades' Hall caretaker Ernie Abbott by a bombing in 1984, and French secret service agents' bombing

of the Rainbow Warrior). Still, Clark's Labour government pushed through a Terrorism Suppression Act in 2002. Parliament was debating amendments - granting even more snooping powers - the very week this "terror" story broke. These raids have not targeted "terrorists", but have instead been aimed at activists. Omar Hamed, charged with weapons offences, is a 19 year-old student activist and a member of Students for Justice in Palestine. Tame Iti, arrested and denied bail, is a long-standing activist for Maori and Indigenous rights. The only charges that have been laid are under the Arms Act - though even these charges are dodgy. Some of those charged aren't accused of firing or even owning an unlicensed gun, but simply of being in the same room as someone who was holding an unlicensed gun!

## International war on terror

New Zealand's Terrorism Suppression Act was introduced as a reaction to the September 11, 2001, atrocities in the US. When it was passed, we were assured that it would be used to protect New Zealanders from the threat of international terrorists, not against domestic dissent. But the war on terror as been used by governments everywhere to target domestic dissent, from the Philippines to Chechnya. The US government has used anti-terrorist

laws to target anti-war activists while in Iraq it is arming both Sunni and Shi'ite militias. Police powers have been increased around the world. This wave of repression has a common origin and goal.

## Governments lose legitimacy

Governments are losing legitimacy in the eyes of their publics as they are increasingly unable to deliver economic security. Voter turnout in Western democracies has been declining for years and, in New Zealand, mass participation in politics through party membership is a thing of the past. Since the Fourth Labour Government came to power in 1984, the free market policies imposed by both Labour and National have decreased job security, undermined wages and conditions, increased the working week and, worst of all, stolen people's hope for a better future. The terror raids are just one more step in the increased repression that goes hand in hand with increased inequality. Only an new upturn in working class confidence and struggle can turn the tide on both repression and inequality. Understanding the deeper crisis that lies behind the turn to repression is the first step towards building a new movement. We hope this issue of Socialist Review contributes to that.

# WAR ON TERROR COMES HOME

## Know your rights

If Police are hassling you and they haven't arrested you and aren't asking your name, date of birth and address, just walk away and say nothing.

Get the officer's name and identification number if you can. Their identification numbers are usually displayed on the black discs on their shoulders. Then, if your friends or whanau are arrested or taken away by the Police, call a lawyer

### Questioning

The Police can come up to you and ask you questions. The only thing that you have to tell them is your correct name, address and date of birth.

### Right not to go with Police

You don't have to go anywhere with the police unless you have been arrested, always ask if you've been arrested.

### Right to consult in private

You can see and talk to your lawyer.

You should never make a statement to the police unless your lawyer is present. If the Police fail to tell you your rights before they question you in connection with an offence and are just asking you general questions, you still have the same rights.

The Police must tell you your rights if you ask. Always ask the police officer "What are all my rights?" if you are questioned by them. They must tell you.

### Searches

#### Right not to be unreasonably searched or have property unreasonably seized.

The Police can only search you, your bag or car if;

- you let them; or
- they arrest you; or
- they have a search warrant; or
- they have reasonable grounds to think you have drugs, a firearm, a knife or offensive weapon, explosives, or disabling substance.

When you are being searched ask the officer what law and what section of the law, you are being searched under.

Make sure you write down exactly what the officer answers, or get another witness if possible to listen in as the officer searches you.

Ask them "Am I under arrest?" If "yes" do not run away or resist.

The Police can search your home if:

- you are the lawful occupant and you let them; or
- they have a search warrant; or



State terrorism . . . armed "ninja" police stormed the Tuhoe village of Ruatoki in the early hours of October 15. Police did NOT have the right to take criminal-style mugshot of motorists at random.

They can search your car if they have reasonable grounds to think it contains stolen goods.

If they ask to search you, your vehicle, bag or home and you don't agree, say 'I don't consent the search. Silence is taken as agreeing to the search. If they insist on searching you, ask for their reason for doing so. If you are female usually only a Policewoman can search you. If they continue to insist on searching you, do not resist but take note of their reasons and Police identification numbers.

### Witnesses

If you have seen someone committing a crime you can report it to the Police and you can make a statement. You may

later be called as a witness to give evidence in court. You do not have to report a crime just because you think you have information about one.

### Arrests, Detainment and Charges

If the Police tell you that you are 'under arrest' or if they grab you or handcuff you then you have been arrested and you must go quietly even if you haven't done anything wrong.

If you struggle, you can be charged with "obstructing a constable" or 'resist arrest'.

If you run away after you have been arrested you can be charged with escaping from 'lawful custody'. If you haven't done anything you will have a

# WAR ON TERROR COMES HOME

chance to prove it in court.

Running away or escaping after being arrested is a very serious offence and is probably going to get you a very big fine and into heaps more trouble. Don't run away. If you are arrested contact a lawyer as soon as you can so they can sort it out.

## Right to be told reasons for police action

If you have been arrested, detained or charged the police must tell you why – if they don't, ask.

### Rights to silences

You do not have to answer any questions or make any statement. It is best to talk to a lawyer before you talk to the police. Remember making a false statement is a serious offence.

### Rights to lawyer

If you have been arrested, detained or charged you have the right to talk to a lawyer. If you have been arrested or detained and you don't have a lawyer you can call one who will give you free advice. Tell the police you want to speak to a free lawyer on the 'Bill of Rights list'. If you have been charged you have the right to free legal assistance to get a lawyer if you need it and the "interests of justice" required it. This is called "legal aid". You probably won't get legal aid unless you are likely to go to prison.

## Right not to be arbitrarily arrested or detained

You have the right not to be arrested without good reason. If you have been arrested or detained the police must tell you of your right to a lawyer and your rights to silence.

## At the Police Station

You should ask to make a phone call as soon as you arrive and keep asking until you are allowed to make the call. Phone someone you trust and tell them to come to the police station as soon as possible. They can get a lawyer for you. Otherwise tell the police you want to speak to a free lawyer on the Bill of Rights list before you talk to them. Make sure you tell your lawyer if you need medical attention or medication of any kind.

If you are arrested the Police can photograph and fingerprint you. They can also search you, your clothing and any bags you were carrying. They will check your property out item by item and give you a receipt. The police will hold all your property until you are released from the Police Station. If it is unlawful (for example drugs) or if it is needed as evidence, it will not be returned to you when you are released.

## Ask for bail

That is the right to go free until your case comes up in court. You have the right to get bail unless there is a good reason for holding you in custody.

You do not have to put up any money for bail. The police can get you to sign a bail bond saying that if you breach the terms of bail you will be charged and arrested without a warrant.

It is helpful to write down everything that happens as soon as possible after any incident with the police, because you don't know how long it will before the matter goes to court.

Get any witnesses to do the same.

If you want to make a formal complaint you can make a complaint to the Police Complaints Authority - free phone 0800 503 728 (Although it will probably take years for any results - complaints from Free Tibet protests from 1999 were only vindicated in November 2007).



# [www.civilrightsdefence.org.nz](http://www.civilrightsdefence.org.nz)

This website aims to be a central collection point for information on the court cases of all the arrestees and on support and solidarity events around Aotearoa / New Zealand and the rest of the world.

It has been set up by the Auckland-based Civil Rights Defence Committee, a support group for those arrested and questioned during paramilitary Police raids on the October 15th and following days.

The committee is calling for:

- \* The defence of civil rights
- \* No terror charges
- \* Immediate bail for all arrestees innocent until proven guilty)
- \* The right to a fair trial

\* The withdrawal of the Terrorism Suppression Act and its amendments

\* Defend communities from paramilitary invasion

The committee is fundraising to provide financial support for defendants, their whanau and friends as well as for legal costs.

Several funds have been established around the country to help with the ongoing court costs of those arrested in October's "terror" raids, as well as with food, travel and accommodation costs for their whanau and families. Please consider making a donation either to:

### Ngai Tuhoe fund

Cheques - Please make your cheque

payable to "Te Kotahi a Tuhoe" and post to Te Kotahi a Tuhoe, PO Box 47 Taneatua, Whakatane.

Wire or transfer details - Bank: ASB  
Account name: Te Kotahi a Tuhoe  
Account number: 12-3253-0032178-50  
Bank address: ASB Bank, Whakatane Branch, 202 The Strand, Whakatane or PO Box 682, Whakatane 3158

### Global Peace and Justice Auckland

Donations can be made to an Auckland based legal defence fund at:

Name: Global Peace & Justice Akld

Bank: Kiwibank

Account number: 38-9000-0099726-00

Reference: DEFENCE FUND



# US arms Sunni militias

*For the previous four years the pro war party has been on the defensive with little supporting evidence to justify their constant proclamations of 'progress' and 'landmarks'.*

*By Matt Walker*

The statements regurgitated by the usual suspects Bush, Blair, Howard and others were more than often so completely detached from the reality in Iraq that they could be considered comical relief, this was certainly the case when Cheney exclaimed in May 2005 that the insurgency was in its "last throes". But key statistics suggest Iraq is experiencing a major decline in violence. Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer recently said withdrawing foreign troops would be "political stupidity" now that "we are actually winning". This superficial progress will test the moderate antiwar movement, who may decide they would rather not protest a war that is being 'won'.

## Decline in violence

Firstly the basic statistics: violence in Baghdad is down 80%, while in the rest of the country it is down 60%, in October there were only 900 reported civilian deaths nation wide according to the associated press count. One thousand refugees are returning to their homes daily, although this has to be compared with the over four million Iraqis (the population of New Zealand) who are displaced internally and externally, an exodus over four times the size of that which the Palestinians experienced in 1948.

Anbar province, once considered the epicenter of resistance it is now largely militarily pacified. Last October, there were over 110 attacks on US forces daily in the province, in October this year there were less than 200 the entire month. US military casualties have also experienced a consistent decline for the past five months based on figures recorded on the website [icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org); compare 126 dead and 700 wounded in May with 38 dead and 300 wounded in October.

All of the above has helped inject confidence into proponents of America's imperial war machine. But while violence is in decline from



**Latest US recruits: Sunni fighters of the 1920 Revolutionary Brigades, who are among the about 64,000 gunmen that the US started funding and arming this year.**

the unprecedented levels seen in 2006 and the first half of 2007, it is still at the same level it was throughout 2005. But the decline is significant because it is the most consistent decline since the invasion.

These developments have not been complemented with any political progress among Iraq's seemingly irreconcilable political elite. Indeed, the US has increasingly been favouring a form of warlordism as a substitute for national reconciliation. US backing of tribal and former insurgent warlords predated Bush's "surge" of 30'000 reinforcements, but it has become a key US policy. Since the occupation began, the US has been supporting Shi'ite and Kurdish militias, either directly or by backing the political parties the militias belong to.

## US arms Sunni militia

What is new is US support for Sunni militia. This, rather than the surge, is likely to be the primary reason for the decline in violence. This unlikely partnership originated in 2005, and can be attributed to two factors. Sunni Arabs concentrated in central and western Iraq have always constituted the backbone of the resistance to the occupation. The Sunni resistance is polarised between two main factions, nationalists and Islamists. The Islamic resistance itself contains a spectrum of positions, varying from moderate to radical. At first the more mainstream nationalist component welcomed the financial and

military assistance of the radical Salafi Islamists commonly associated with the umbrella organisation the Islamic State in Iraq. The group's most notable member Al-Qaida in Iraq, while constituting only a small percentage of the resistance played a disproportionate role in relation to their actual size, although even so, this role in no way justifies the almost complete concentration of the media on AQI when referencing organised opposition to the occupation in what is an obvious and deliberate propaganda technique. Any sympathetic or grateful sentiment among the Iraqi people toward AQI extinguished as a result of the often brutal methods it employed in towns like Samara, Haditha and Ramadi. The animosity continues to simmer though, and this fragile alliance will face a test if the radical Islamist militia are defeated. Illustrated in this exchange posted on an Army blog between a soldier in Baquba and an American aligned 1920 Revolutionary Brigades fighter, Soldier: "Do you want to kill me"? Fighter: "Yes, but not today".

## Balancing sectarianism

Western media explain the alliance as the result of a popular rising of "concerned citizens" against radical Islamism. While the bloody terrorist tactics that AQI has used against civilians have been widely condemned by almost all of the resistance, the alliance also gives Sunni tribal leaders to US arms and money, which they

## DIVIDE AND RULE IN IRAQ

have missed out on so far. The US is reported to have 64,000 Sunni fighters on its payroll – about the same number as the Mahdi Army – at a cost of hundreds of millions.

Sunni leaders were privileged under Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath regime. Since the US invasion, they have lost power to the Shi'ite, who make up about 60 per cent of the population. The Shi'ite elite dominates the parliament and the Shi'ite Badr Brigades (who were formerly based in Iran) now dominate the Iraqi police and army. The Badr Brigades, covered by their uniforms have been able to cleanse neighbourhoods and settle sectarian scores with impunity.

Not surprisingly, Shi'ite leaders are deeply concerned about the US arming of Sunni militias. For the US, this strategy fits perfectly with the classic imperial strategy of divide and rule. All polls across all ethnic groups in Iraq overwhelmingly oppose the US occupation, but the US has manoeuvred itself into a position where the political and tribal elites of each group – Kurdish, Shi'ite, or Sunni – are dependent on the occupation to maintain or extend their power.

### Collapse into warlordism

After years of chaotic bloodshed and insecurity, Iraq is being dismembered into a wasteland where sectarian warlords and militias act as the organizing principle of Iraqi society. This is far from the overblown US promises of freedom and democracy four and a half years ago. The Bush Administration still tries to sell it as a success story. US objectives in Iraq have been downgraded every year since the invasion. Now 'victory' is defined by the establishment of a warlord state.



**The extravagant \$600 million US embassy will be the biggest in the world, hardly an indication to Iraqis that their occupiers will be leaving in the near future.**

America's real intentions are painfully obvious. Take the extravagant \$600 million US embassy being constructed in Baghdad for example. It will be the biggest in the world, hardly an indication to the people of Iraq that their occupiers will be leaving in the near future; the same goes for the openly planned 14 'enduring' or permanent bases. Continued US pressurizing of Iraq to privatize its oil reserves off to the same corporations many in the Bush administration are involved with is nothing more than Mafiosi-style criminality. The US government's cult-like obsession with profits has seen Saddam-era anti-trade union laws harshened further with US sanction and support. In June this year Iraqi oil workers protesting privatization were surrounded by heavily armed soldiers while US warplanes practised hostile manoeuvres overhead.

So, while Downer and his mates are celebrating the decline in the insurgency as the beginning of pacification, the reality is that the extremely limited victory they are trumpeting says more

about the continued decline of US imperial power. The invasion of Iraq has not resulted in a pro-US democratic revolution across the Middle East and it has not resulted in a pro-US democratic Iraq. By arming Sunni militia the US is playing a dangerous game. It is a far cry from the 1980s where they managed the Iran-Iraq war from afar, supplying both sides with weapons without being directly involved. It is even further from the heyday of US imperialism in the 1960s and 70s, when their puppet Shah Reza Pahlavi, ruled Iran. Now US soldiers are on the streets of Iraq, exposed to the bullets that their government supplies to both sides in this fratricidal war.

### Test for anti-war activists

The apparent decline in violence will be a test for anti-war activists. If Iraq should stabilize, the peace will certainly not equate to justice. Socialists have always argued that the US military, both directly and by playing sections of the Iraqi people off against each other, is the main enemy of peace in Iraq. Their latest strategy proves this again. Even if it does bring a short-term lull in fighting, the US government is sowing the seeds of a civil war bloodier than that in Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion. Anti-war activists have to be clear that the only way to peace in Iraq is for US troops to get out. This will not happen until we build a protest movement as big as the movement against the American war in Vietnam, until US troops themselves start to refuse to fight and crucially, until an Iraqi resistance that unites Sunni, Shi'ites and Kurds against the US government and the Iraqi sectarian and tribalist elites. It's been done before and it can be done again.

it takes a revolution...



... to make a solution

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*Prices range between \$10 and \$20.*

# A lesson in protest from South Koreans

**O**n Sunday the 11th of November 80,000 Korean protesters converged on downtown Seoul to partake in a mass workers' and people's rally. They were joined by International Socialist Organisation member and English language teacher Toby Campbell.

The rally has been held for the last several years, but this year it included Korean peasants (a title they prefer, rather than farmers).

The rally had been planned to be held on the city hall lawn, but was banned several days before in a defiant display of power by the Roh Moo-Hyun government. The government also feared that the rally could have grown

into a march of 200-300,000 people. To prevent this 25,000 riot police and 600 riot buses were deployed in the city, and throughout the country 65,000 police were mobilised to stop peasants from reaching Seoul. Roadblocks were set up on highways and prevented about 450 coach loads of peasants from reaching Seoul. Train stations were also occupied and trains were prevented from stopping in more militant areas of the country. It was a disturbing example of the political repression present in South Korea, and a saddening situation in which tens of thousands of the most militant protesters were barred from attending. In what has many historical precedents in South Korea, many peasants responded by raiding and attacking several provincial police stations.

## Opposition to US free trade

The rally was unified around three issues. The first was opposition to the FTA that the South Korean government

is signing with the US. This has united South Korean peasants and unions who will be severely hit by the agreement. It is also a major issue for South Korea's large left wing nationalist parties, who provided some of the most militant activists at the rally.

## Troops out of Iraq

The second was a demand for the withdrawal of Korean troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon, although officially the rally organisers settled on a "call for peace" rather than anti-imperialism. Withdrawal from Iraq is supported by up to 90% of Koreans, but the current government has just extended the deployment. Just after agreeing to the extension several weeks ago, President Roh Moo-Hyun publicly stated that the decision to send troops to Iraq was a "historic error" and he had only done it to appease the US.

## Job security

The third issue was that of opposition



*Rise of the working class: The industrial working class in South Korea alone outnumbers the working class of the whole world during Marx's day.*





*Helping hand . . . This Korean protestor helps a comrade away from the riot police*

to the casualisation of labour. This issue directly affects almost half of Korea's workforce and has led to a series of mass pickets, occupations, and hunger strikes this year. Among these is the ongoing struggle of E-Land workers (similar to K-Mart), who were fired en masse by the company earlier this year to avoid giving them regular worker's status. At the rally casual labour was evident with large contingents of young, predominately female workers.

## Restrictive electoral laws

The rally began when smaller rallies converged on the main street leading to City Hall. First there was the workers' rally with speeches, songs and chants. Among the speakers was the Democratic Labour Party presidential candidate, Kwon Young-Ghil. In South Korea, presidential candidates are not allowed to campaign more than a month before the election, in an attempt to restrict smaller parties competing. This was one of the justifications used to ban the rally, which was held a week before official campaigning started. After the workers' rally, the people's rally began, which followed a similar pattern. Once completed the rally turned into a march and proceeded to surround the police blockade of City Hall.

## Workers and students take on the cops

When each section was in place, assault teams emerged from the crowds with masks, ladders, and ropes. The teams were composed of unionists and left wing nationalist students. The students are part of the largest youth group in South Korea and many train in martial arts and guerrilla tactics in the mountains. Eventually these groups managed to scale the police buses that blockaded the roads, fight off the riot police on the buses, and even turn water canons on the police themselves.

## Final rally

After attempts to topple several buses with 50m long tug-of-war ropes, the police charged the protesters with metre-long rubber and steel swords and large riot shields. Dozens were injured and eventually the assaults were called off. The

marchers then converged for the final rally, which included speeches, songs, and dances (many of which roused the crowd more than the songs and speeches).

The rally was an amazing display of the militancy and unity of the Korean left. Each group or union in the rally had its own bandannas and jackets, and a large flag to show its presence, but when they marched, they marched together. A British comrade at the rally compared it to the mass anti-war protests in London, which she said felt more like a walk in the park with everybody doing their own thing.

## Fight for livelihoods

For South Korean workers and farmers the rally was a struggle over their very livelihoods. In April this year Heo Se-Wook, a member of the KCTU (Korea's progressive union federation) died due to self-immolation in protest to the Korea-US FTA. The militancy of those at the rally, and those denied access to the rally, reflected the importance of these struggles to the people involved. This militancy also displayed the mindset of people whose history has made them extremely conscious of just how important struggle is.

*Toby is teaching English in South Korea and is politically active with All Together, a semi-legal international socialist organisation.*



*Assault teams of unionists and students emerged from the crowds with masks, ladders, and ropes, scaled the police buses that blockaded the roads, and even turned water cannon on the police themselves.*

# Ending the insanity of world war

*For all that the Russian revolution is the subject of intense controversy, virtually no historian still contests the idea that World War One was bloody butchery for the sake of imperial aggrandisement.*

*By Mike Tait*

On a single day in early October, some 3500 young NZers were massacred on the fields of France in a competition between European elites to murder millions of their own youth. What is telling is that so few people put two and two together. The Russian revolution could have taken place on an entirely different planet for all the connection that people see. Hardly anyone will weigh in the balance the so-called crimes of Lenin with the war crimes of the British Royal Family or William Massey, then PM of NZ who sent those young men to their deaths and who has a university named after him by a grateful country. This lack of balance is all the more telling in that unlike the ruling classes of Europe and NZ that grew fat on the profits of war, Lenin never profited personally in any way from a lifetime of struggle. But the Russian Revolution did happen on planet Earth, it was the result of the war and its first, most immediate triumph was that it put an end that insane slaughterfest.

## Causes of World War One

The first world war was the end result of the conquest of the entire world. When every pre-capitalist society – right down to Samoa and Puerto Rico – had been devoured by the European powers and the USA the only way to dominate the world was by redividing what was already conquered. The ruling classes rallied their populations using the tired old slogans of nationalism, religion and empire and threw them to their deaths in the inferno of the front line. To their eternal shame, many of the socialist parties, including Labour and the millions-strong German SP, backed their own rulers and gave their blessing to an unwinnable war.

This was the first sign of the birth of Labourism, or reformism, the misleaders of the working class movement who look to reforms within



*Brothers in arms: A Russian soldier fraternises with an Austrian after the Russian Revolution.*

the system and accepted the necessity of defending their own nation states as a result.

The Bolsheviks to their credit did not. In the immediate flood of patriotic enthusiasm, revolutionaries were isolated and discredited but as the war machines of Europe deadlocked in tit for tat trench massacres it became clear that the ruling classes had no plan B, no exit strategy.

Of all European powers, Russia was the weakest. Backward and autocratic, the regime had no military strategy or strength except the human wave. In February 1917, this was no longer enough and the Tsar was overthrown in a spontaneous revolution. But the Provisional Government that replaced the Tsar was little better. They saw no alternative but to continue the war because they saw only military defeat by Germany and punitive attacks from their erstwhile allies – the British and French – as the only possible result. Even assuming that some members of the government were as they claimed to be – socialists – to continue the war they depended on the cooperation of the Russian factory owners, bankers and landlords.

## Revolution to end war

The Bolsheviks, by contrast, did have an exit strategy – by overthrowing the Russian ruling class workers could give land to the peasants and an example to the workers and soldiers of the rest of

Europe. The German High Command shuttled the revolutionary leadership by sealed train from exile in Switzerland through Germany to Russia. They gambled on the Bolsheviks taking Russia out of the war and leaving them free to deal with the Western Front.

When Lenin arrived he was greeted with popular acclaim and official ceremony. But he immediately set to convincing his party and then the people, that the revolution would never be secure until it was complete, until Russian capitalists and landlords were overthrown and Russia taken out of the war.

## Mass democracy

On this day, 90 years ago, for the first time in history, the oppressed, in Russian terms, the black people, the dark people, the workers and peasants, took over the government of an entire nation through mass, participatory democracy.

The first task of the October revolution was to end the war. They did this first by exposing the secret treaties between the Tsar and the western powers, by exposing the imperialist ambitions that lay behind the lies about freedom and self-defence. Less than a year later, the German High Command's bluff was called, as revolution in Germany ended the First World War.

That was the first achievement of the October Revolution. Open imperialism took a blow from which it will never recover. The cry "For King and Country" has tasted sour in our mouths ever since.

# What happened in Russia?

**T**he Russian Revolution of 1917 proved that revolution can succeed, that the working class can overthrow capitalism, and take control of society - but it also confirmed the Marxist view that a socialist revolution could survive only if it were part of an international revolution.

By John Molyneux

On this Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky - indeed all Marxists before Stalin - had insisted. Russia today is a result, not of the revolution of 1917, but of the defeat of that revolution by the Stalinist counter-revolution of the 1920s. The essence of the 1917 revolution was the establishment of workers' power through the rule of Soviets or workers' councils. Both the revolution and the functioning of the Soviets depended on a working class with a high level of political consciousness, activity and enthusiasm. In 1917 the Russian working class possessed these qualities in abundance, but in the years following the revolution it lost them.

This was not because of some 'natural law' that revolution must fail, but because of the material conditions prevailing in Russia at the time. Above all it was because of the hideous civil war of 1918-21, backed by Britain, France and other imperialist powers. The civil war claimed the lives of a huge proportion of the most politically advanced workers who formed the core of the revolutionary Red Army. It devastated the Russian economy. Industry and transport ground to a halt, famine and epidemics raged. Many workers fled to the countryside in search of food. By 1921 the total number of industrial workers had fallen from three million to one and a quarter million, and those that remained were politically exhausted.

In the absence of an active working class the Bolsheviks were forced to rely more and more on the old Tsarist officials to administer the country. The individual who personified and led this development was Joseph Stalin.

The rise of Stalinism did not go unresisted. Lenin devoted the last months of his life, when he was incapacitated by illness, to a desperate



**Clean sweep: Lenin believed socialism was possible in backward Russia because it could spark off successful revolutions in more advanced Western Europe.**

struggle against Stalin and the bureaucracy. Trotsky remained its uncompromising opponent until his death. But social conditions favoured the bureaucracy, and step by step Stalin and his supporters were able to defeat their opponents until by the end of the 1920s, all opposition was eliminated and all workers' rights were removed.

The only thing that could have prevented the rise of the bureaucracy was international revolution. If the revolution had spread rapidly to other European countries (as it nearly did in 1918-19) the civil war would have been won before the working class was decimated. Even as late as 1923, revolution in Germany (a real

possibility) would have transformed the situation. It would have brought aid to poverty-stricken Russia and so strengthened the workers. It would have removed the threat of intervention and the need to compete with Western capitalism.

After 1923 the bureaucracy turned its back on the international revolution. Hence Stalin's policy of 'socialism in one country' - strengthening the Russian state by exploiting the workers and peasants. The system was state capitalism.

The real lesson of the Russian Revolution is not that socialist revolution can't work. It is that revolution must spread internationally.

# Who's to blame for sexism?

*To read the papers, you'd think the biggest problem facing women today is that we haven't quite made it to the top of society.*

*By Rachael Morgain*

What scant attention the press gives to sexism is usually focused on how few women sit on company boards or the Federal Court. This is true. But it's hardly the most pressing concern. The fact that women face much higher rates of poverty than men barely rates a mention. Let alone the constant barrage of sexist imagery. Or the rubbish from politicians, suggesting that women's only significant role in life is to have children.

## Sex and sexism

To see how prevalent sexism is, we only have to turn on the TV. If it's not hand-wringing dramas about mothers whose children suffer when they take up paid work, it's music videos urging women to define ourselves by how sexually alluring we are. The past 30

years have seen substantial shifts in the ways women experience oppression. But the oppression remains. Women are no longer told (most of the time) to cover up or remain chaste until marriage. Instead, we're encouraged to make ourselves "beautiful" - and sexually available - regardless of our feelings. Young women are made to feel bad that they're doing better than young men in school. There's little acknowledgment that these women face an uncertain future of lower-paid work and hard choices if they want to raise children.

## Eating disorders

It's no wonder most women battle to gain the confidence to speak our minds. No wonder many women hate their bodies - so much so that eating disorders can be life-threatening. No wonder more than a million Australian women have experienced violence in their relationships. Sexism is deeply rooted in our society. And it's underpinned by a material inequality that hits working class women hardest. Women still earn only four-fifths of

men's wages on average - two-thirds if you include part-time workers. This is of enormous benefit to the bosses, who take advantage of women's cheapened labour to boost profits and to undercut the wages of men. But this isn't the only benefit. Constantly depicting women in sexualised ways encourages women to believe we have to make ourselves attractive to men. And by teaching us that being "feminine" means being nurturing, we grow up thinking our destiny is to raise children and take responsibility for family life.

## Hidden work

Thus capitalism gains a precious source of unpaid labour. As the welfare state is shredded, sexism provides the ideological backbone to ensure women take up the slack - caring for the disabled and elderly, raising children and maintaining the well-being of the workforce. This amounts to half of the Australian GDP, free of charge. Underneath all this lies the contradictory demand of modern capitalism: that working class women continue to generate profits in the paid workforce, while accepting the bulk of reproductive labour. This contradiction holds countless women in its vice-like grip. Child care is so expensive that going to work often earns women very little extra, or even costs money. But the contradictions also make it increasingly less likely that women accept these ideas. So our rulers have to push even harder to convince us of their sexist rubbish. And this affects all women, reshaping our daily lives and impairing our most intimate experiences.

## Are men to blame?

It's often within immediate relationships, especially in the family, that working class women experience sexism most directly. But this doesn't mean these relationships are the source of sexism. Quite the contrary. Opinion makers work hard to drum up sexism - just look how little success they've had trying to scale back abortion rights. But with enough hammering, workers do pick up many of the sick ideas that our rulers perpetuate. And the capitalist class benefits from this too, convincing us that their sexism is a reflection of working class backwardness. This sows divisions between workers, holding us back from challenging sexism and the system.





# Reclaiming Che Guevara from the realms of mythology

*Che Guevara's face stares out Christ-like from a million T-shirts, his image has been used not only on street protests, but also in corporate advertising.*

*By Mike Tait*

Newsweek claimed that time has "tamed the anti-imperialist tiger and turned him into a rebel without claws." But that's not really true. In the west, Che's resurrection coincided with the massive global justice movement in the late 90s. Of all the revolutionary leaders of the last century, Che's image has been corporatised because unlike Lenin, say, or Karl Marx, Che has become a myth – a symbol of eternal moral ideals.

## Moral hero

The similarity between Che's execution and Jesus Christ is part of this. His killers unwittingly fed this myth. In order to prove that he was undoubtedly dead, they photographed his corpse. To their dismay, the image that circulated around the world recalled countless Renaissance paintings of the dead Christ taken down from the cross. 'It's as if the dead Guevara looks on his killers and forgives them, and upon the world, proclaiming that he who dies for an idea is beyond suffering,' wrote his friend, Jorge Castañeda in *Compañero*. In death, Che was frozen forever and spared any association with the reality of the historical Cuban revolution. Guevara's own politics led to this.

## Peasant politics

Unlike political parties that base themselves in the working class, the guerrilla is not subject to the discipline of winning political arguments, of democracy. Their authority comes from military strength, and they have a different relationship to their social base – the peasantry. Castro and Guevara saw the countryside as the best place to organise militarily, and as a result of that, the need to make agrarian reform the primary aim of the revolution. Castro and Che were successful in Cuba largely because the Batista regime fell victim to its own rottenness, and fell at the slightest push.

The revolution was massively popular



*One of the last pictures of Che Guevara, with his mule Chico, taken during his fatal attempt to start an guerilla focus in the Bolivian jungle.*

but it was not under popular control.

## Stalinist distortion

Castro and Che set about establishing the new state with the guerrilla army as its model. The difficult position of the new regime quickly became very clear. They were committed to improving the situation of the Cuban people, but they were locked into a subservient position in the world economy. Castro took as his model Stalinist Russia, which had rapidly industrialised by super-exploitation of the peasantry. That meant standing above the workers – becoming a new ruling class. Che's ideal of the heroic, selfless revolutionary became even more central as the state demanded ever larger sugar cane harvests, but Cuba's economy was so

small and distorted towards meeting the US demand for sugar that it fell into the same dependent relationship with the USSR.

## Internationalism

To his credit, Che started grasping towards a theory of international revolution and he embarked on a series of disastrous guerrilla adventures. Finally, in Bolivia, his ragged army of forty guerrillas was surrounded and destroyed. Guevara was undoubtedly one of the good guys – his unswerving commitment to humankind and his dedication to revolution are a constant inspiration. But we do him no favours by letting him disappear into the realm of myth. He belongs, with all his faults, to our history, and to our struggle.



IRAQI VETERANS FACE SUICIDE EPIDEMIC

# Iraq's hidden death toll



*Iraq veterans demonstrate against the war in Washington DC. Hard though speaking out may be, suicide statistics suggest that silence may be far more dangerous. CBS's conservative estimate is that 12,000 veterans have taken their lives. If 2005 is representative of the whole war, 25,000 is more realistic.*

**T**he biggest killer of US soldiers serving in Iraq is not the resistance - it's suicide.

*By Ruth Braham*

While in 2005, 825 soldiers died in active duty in Iraq, CBS recently revealed that a staggering 6,256 returned soldiers - over seven times as many - took their own lives. The toll outside 2005 is unknown - the government refuses to keep a tally. CBS's conservative estimate is that 12,000 have taken their lives. If 2005 is representative of the whole period of the Iraq war, 25,000 is a more realistic assumption. While shocking and devastating, it's not difficult to see what's behind the epidemic.

## Death commonplace

Ninety-five per cent of soldiers in Iraq have seen dead bodies, 93 per cent have been shot at and 86 per cent know someone who's been killed or seriously injured. For many, the mental anguish they take home from Iraq - the legacy of

seeing mutilated bodies and being forced to kill, the trauma of having friends killed around you - is all-consuming. Compounding this is the growing realisation that the war in Iraq is unjustified. Soldiers are increasingly aware that all the horror they have

**H**is eyes when he came back were just dead. The light wasn't there anymore."

experienced and been responsible for was not for "liberty" but for US power. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression are rife, and support is totally inadequate. Tragically, many veterans feel like suicide is the only way out. One such case was 23-year-old Marine Reservist Jeff Lucey. Shortly after returning from Iraq, his father found him dead in the cellar of their family home - he had hung himself with a garden hose. Another 23-year-old, Tim Bowman, shot himself on Thanksgiving Day, eight months after returning from Baghdad. His mother says he never recovered from

the war: "His eyes when he came back were just dead. The light wasn't there anymore."

## Most at risk

These two men belong to the highest category of veteran suicides - men aged 20-24 who've served in Iraq - many of whom joined the army believing they were fighting for justice only to discover they'd been lied to about the reasons for war. Matthew Rhodes Winter, who initially supported the "war on terror", says "I happily loaded bombs and didn't mind the long hours and poor conditions... [but then] The war on Iraq began and the lies began to pile up. We were there to get Bin Laden. We were there to keep Saddam from dropping a nuke on Washington. We were there to free the Iraqi people. All complete and utter bullshit."

Fortunately, Matthew is not one of the suicide victims, and has instead joined Iraq Veterans Against the War to fight with 700 other returned soldiers to bring the troops home. The suicide epidemic is just another reason why we need to fight to get troops out now.

## FURTHER READING

### Workers' Revolutions of the 20th Century \$5

Of all the arguments that socialists make, the insistence on the need for revolution is perhaps the most controversial. Not, in many cases, because the idea of revolution seems bad, but mostly because it seems so unrealistic. And yet a brief look at the recent history of capitalism shows not only that revolutions happen, but that they keep happening again and again, sometimes despite seemingly overwhelming odds. This pamphlet documents just some of the working class revolutions of the last century: Russia in 1905 and 1917, Germany 1918-23, Hungary 1956, Chile 1972-73, Iran 1979 and Poland 1980-81. The accounts testify to the courage and creativity of working people when they organise and fight back. But while this history shows that revolutionary outbreaks are inevitable, they also show that victory for the oppressed masses is far from certain. So in looking at this history, the authors have tried to draw lessons for the future.

### Reform or Revolution \$3

#### *Rosa Luxemburg*

Luxemburg wrote this essential pamphlet in opposition to the important theorist of reformist socialism, Eduard Bernstein, whose ideas became popular in the German Socialist Party around the turn of the 20th Century. In this pamphlet, Luxemburg points out that reformism is not just a different road to the same socialist end that revolutionaries espouse, but a road to a different destination altogether.

Essays on  
nationalism and  
revolution in  
the Arab world



### The Socialist Movement: Our History \$6

The history of the socialist movement is rich with lessons for those wanting an alternative to the horrors of modern capitalism. This pamphlet introduces the real story of our movement.

### The Communist Manifesto \$6

#### *Karl Marx & Frederick Engels*

The introduction to Marxism by its founders. The Manifesto of the Communist Party was written just before the revolutions of 1848, as the public expression of the ideas of the German Communist League, of which Marx and Engels were leading members.

### Essays on Nationalism and Revolution in the Arab World \$6

#### *Socialist Alternative*

These essays look at the politics of nationalism, socialism and Islamism in the Arab world, and examines the different strategies these currents present as a way forward.

## WORKERS' REVOLUTIONS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE PAMPHLET



## Join the Struggle

*Socialist Review* is a magazine produced by the International Socialist Organisation Aotearoa. It aims to provide quality political analysis that represents the interests of the working class majority in New Zealand. But unlike "alternative" media sources, we don't aim simply to provide an "antidote" to the corporate lies, imperialist wars, oppression and inequality that dominate the global landscape; we aim to put them into historical and economic context, to draw links between the various issues and the global capitalist system, and analyse what they mean for ordinary working people and the working class movement, both at home and abroad. To do this we try and maintain a healthy balance of domestic and international issues.

We also practice what we preach, and support the working class movement whenever we can; with the long-term aim of building an organisation that can provide the working class with political leadership in times of upheaval.

If you're interested in our politics and want to know how you can get involved, please email: [contact@iso.org.nz](mailto:contact@iso.org.nz) or visit our website: [www.iso.org.nz](http://www.iso.org.nz)

## RESISTING GENOCIDE IN AUSTRALIA

By the 1870s in Victoria and the 1890s in NSW Aboriginal children could be legally removed from their families in a process that was to become a systematic, nationwide attempt to destroy Aboriginality. The NSW Aboriginal Welfare Board was to later describe the policy as having "a positive aim, namely, to make the aboriginal a responsible, active, intelligent citizen". Children under this "protection" were sent to missions where they would be, in the words of one Western Australian MP, "taught to be useful". In practice this meant suffering acute torment, humiliation and abuse.

### Abuse and servitude

Marjorie Woodrow, who experienced this fate at Parramatta, describes the experience: "They threw us into these places... It was the doctor there that molested us. That doctor!... We used to hide in the cupboard at night so that it wouldn't be our turn... They knew we were being molested, but they'd threaten to cut our throats if we said anything."

Often, children would be contracted out to work for white families in atrocious conditions. Rosalind Kidd has documented how "young girls fresh from school" were in highest demand, with the Queensland Home Department continuing to "contract out settlement girls until the 1960s, all the time cataloguing prevalent physical and sexual abuse". Boys younger than 12 could be bound to pastoral stations where they were to be "broken in", as one employer put it, like animals.

### Stolen wages

There was no "freedom of contract" in these situations. From 1904, for example, the Queensland Government controlled the employment, wages and savings of all Aboriginal people. Workers' wages went direct to the police protector apart from "pocket money" retained by employer for distribution during the work period. The conditions of life for Aboriginal workers were far below those of white workers, with wages in some cases at 6 per cent of the standard rate, and no award entitlements.

Workers usually had to sleep rough in makeshift shacks that were "mere kennels" and make do with basic provisions of bread and tea, or else fend for themselves. Yet to leave the employer was not just a breach of contract, but an offence. Punishment was swift for workers who tried to escape this filthy regime. Absconders were rounded up, chained together by



the necks and wrists, punished and put back to work. Others were sent to prison or exiled.

The pittance that workers were paid was held in trusts and private accounts, although often the wages were simply not paid at all. This was the case across the country, with conditions in South Australia, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland variously described at the time as "analogous to slavery", "servitude that is nothing short of slavery", "another name for slavery", "slavery conditions" and just simply "slavery".

In her submission to a 2006 Senate inquiry into stolen wages, Dr Fiona Skyring from the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia wrote: "It was openly acknowledged that many Aboriginal workers, throughout much of the 20th century, were not paid any money at all... That system was...supported by the state government". Not that the workers themselves could know for sure what was happening, as they had no right to even view the balance of their own account!

### Millions of dollars go missing

It is estimated that, right into the 1970s and even the 1980s, hundreds of millions of dollars were stolen or withheld. In Queensland and Western Australia alone, the estimates total around \$650 million. This includes, in the case of Queensland, direct theft by the State, as it dipped its tentacles into private accounts and two trust funds to

*In late June, on the last day of parliament before the winter recess, Prime Minister John Howard suddenly announced a "national emergency" scheme to pour police and soldiers into Aboriginal townships in the Northern Territories supposedly to stop child abuse.*

*However, the punitive measures (eg cutting benefits) will do nothing to improve child safety, but rolling back self-government and land rights will benefit tourism and mining businesses.*

bankroll itself through the Depression years, while cynically claiming it was providing "welfare" to the reserves Aboriginal people had been forced onto. What is now clear is that the so-called "welfare" was coming from Aboriginal workers and going to State governments, police officers and pastoralists.

### Rebellion in the Pilbara

In the 1940s a series of struggles broke out which brought national and international attention to the conditions of Aborigines. The entry of Aboriginal people into the workforce, despite their status as slaves, put these workers in a potentially powerful position.

A 1929 Commonwealth report on conditions in northern Australia found that the pastoral industry was "absolutely dependent on the blacks for the labour" and that "most of the [farms]...would have to be abandoned" without them.

In April 1946, 600 Aboriginal stockmen throughout the north of Western Australia began walking off stations throughout the region to demand a minimum wage of thirty shillings a week.

With no means of communication, pastoral worker Dooley Bin Bin and Communist Party member Don McLeod organised workers scattered over a huge area who faced laws that prohibited workers leaving their place of employment without permission. Despite the obstacles, a strike was organised. Time and again, strikers were arrested and chained, tried and sent back to work. Don McLeod was

## RESISTING GENOCIDE IN AUSTRALIA

tried seven times, "sometimes for counselling natives sometimes for being within five chains of two or more natives for which the penalty was a fine of \$400 or two years gaol or both".

In Perth, solidarity activity by the Committee for the Defence of Native Rights (CDNR), led by Communist Party members, brought attention to the struggle nationally and internationally. It took four years, but the industry was brought to a complete halt in 1949, while the seaman's union organised a secondary boycott - refusing to handle wool coming from the stations.

While the action itself was ultimately unsuccessful, it set the stage for further struggles in the late 1940s and early 1950s across the north of the country. By the late 1950s a national movement

was stirring, with the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement being founded.

### Civil rights movement

These struggles in turn gave legs to a civil rights movement and the land rights movement, with walk-offs at Newcastle Waters and Wave Hill in 1966 drawing attention to and ultimately leading to the first great victory of the land rights campaign, and a federal referendum in 1967 that finally allowed Aborigines to be counted in the national census.

Yet for all the victories, Aboriginal people were and are still effectively second-class citizens. Even into the 1980s, though compulsory contracts had disappeared, wages in Queensland were only 72 per cent of the minimum wage

on reserves.

Today, the legislation enacted by the Howard government - and supported by the ALP - is again placing State restrictions on the way Aboriginal people live their lives, and attempting to drive them off their land in the name of "protection" and "advancement".

John Howard refers to this as a "new consensus". There is nothing new about this consensus. It's very old hat to drive Aboriginal people from their land and treat them like dogs, often under the pretence of "concern" for their welfare. What we need is a really new consensus - unbending hostility to governments, both Liberal and Labor, and unwavering solidarity with Aboriginal struggles against racism and for basic democratic rights.

## Will Rudd be any better?

**G**etting rid of Howard has given a boost to the idea that it is possible to take on the neo-liberal agenda of the right. But it should not blind us to the task ahead - of taking on the same agenda in the new guise of Rudd's Labor, say Sandra Bloodworth and Mick Armstrong of Socialist Alternative, Australia.

Kevin Rudd's election launch and victory speeches summed up what we can expect from his government. It was predictable from Rudd, but nauseating to see a Labor mass audience give some of their loudest applause at Labor's campaign launch to Rudd's declaration that "Reckless spending must stop!" This is an echo of his record as a Queensland government bureaucrat whose claim to fame was the swathe he cut through the jobs and conditions of public servants.

While he deferred some of the grossest tax cuts to the wealthy, Rudd emphasised that spending on a decrepit health system and run-down public schools are no more his agenda than Howard's. He had no "ideological problem" with Howard's handouts to parents who can afford \$20,000 and more to send their kids to wealthy private schools. And he has no



*Son of Darth Vader:  
Howard has passed on his light  
sabre to Kevin Rudd.  
Chances of him turning to the Dark Side of the Force?  
Pretty good actually.*

intention of using the wealth created by the boom to alleviate the conditions that have bred the hatred of Howard.

Just like Howard, he declared on election night "I will be a Prime Minister for all Australians". But two days before he had backed away from recognising the rights of Indigenous people, and when asked the simple question "Will you say 'sorry'?" by radio host Neil Mitchell, he stuttered and stammered. He sounded like a caricature of Howard; he could not just say a simple "Yes".

Howard deliberately called on Rudd in his concession speech to maintain the NT intervention into Aboriginal communities. Rudd could have taken the opportunity to reject the virtual police state that is the result of Howard's takeover of Aboriginal communities. He did not, preferring meaningless phrases about "ruling for all Australians" that

have justified every racist attack on Indigenous people and Muslims and every denial of refugee rights.

We can expect more of the same from Rudd; he did not defend David Hicks until it was clear that Howard was losing the debate and he has never spoken clearly to defend Muslims against the anti-Muslim hysteria created by the "War on Terror".

He mentioned soldiers serving overseas as one of the groups included in his definition of "all of us", but did not mention bringing any of them home. Instead he went out of his way to sing the praises of the US - the most brutal empire in the history of humanity. Continuing his theme of being for "working families", Rudd failed to even mention the unemployed, pensioners, the disabled and their carers and single mothers.



# Conscious hiphop: the Coup

*The Coup are one of a number of politically conscious hip hop outfits who have been quietly pumping out top beats and rhymes for a number of years.*

Boots Riley, one of the members of The Coup, is a political activist as well as a musician, who, since the age of 14, has considered himself to be a communist: "I think that people should have democratic control over the profits that they produce. It is not real democracy until you have that. And the plain and simple definition of communism is the people having democratic control over the profits that they create."

## Head (of State)

Bush and Hussein together in bed  
Giving H-E-A-D head  
Y'all motherfuckers heard what we said  
Billions made and millions dead  
Work it out; set it up  
In a land not very far away from here



Boots Riley

George W. Bush was drinkin beer  
His daddy was head of the CIA  
Now listen up close to what I say  
The CIA worked for Standard Oil  
And other companies to whom they're loyal  
In a whole 'nother land by the name of

Iran

The people got wise and took a stand  
to the oil companies, ay ain't shit funny?  
This is our oil, our land, our money  
CIA got mad and sent false info  
to Iraq to help start the Iran/Iraq wo'  
Pronounced war if I have to be proper  
The CIA is the cops that's why I hate the coppers  
Saddam Hussein was their man out there  
They told him to rule while keepin people scared  
Sayin any opposition to him, he must crush it  
He gassed the Kurds, they gave him his budget  
Said you gotta kick ass to protect our cash  
Step out of line and feel our wrath  
You know the time without lookin at the little hand  
Time came for them to cut out the middle man  
Children maimed with no legs and shit  
Cause the "Bombs Over..." you know the OutKast hit  
And they really want you to hate him dead  
When just the other day they made him head  
War ain't about one land against the next  
It's po' people dyin so the rich cash checks

## But I don't have time to be involved

*Busy people change the world, not people with a whole lot of extra time on their hands.*

By Colleen Bolger

It's people with a job or two, who study, who have families, who try to fit in seeing their friends once in awhile who have been the stuff of social movements in the past. We can forget that it was people with stressful lives just like yours who campaigned against the Vietnam War, organised against Apartheid South Africa, for women's rights or for Maori land rights.

The success of those campaigns rested on people deciding that no matter what their essay was worth, or whether they had a shift on the day of a rally, or someone was coming from out of town to see them, they could not stand by and do nothing when they knew that something must be done.

So don't wait until it's convenient to come to a rally or a meeting. Challenging racism toward Asians or protesting against war is rarely convenient. We do it because it is the responsibility of everyone who finds these things intolerable to do something about it. What's more you can't absolve yourself by hoping that others will do the things you agree are necessary to

win a better world.

An organisation that stands firmly on the side of workers and against war and oppression is going to have to be built by thousands who refuse to let a week go by without taking some time to attend to the tasks involved in trying to make our world a liveable one.

When it comes down to it, there could not be a better or more important use of your time than the struggle for the liberation of humanity. So don't waste any more time, get involved with the International Socialists today.



# WHERE WE STAND

## Socialism

Capitalism is a system of crisis, exploitation and war in which production is for profit, not human need. Although workers create society's wealth, they have no control over its production or distribution. A new society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and create a new state in which they will make the decisions about the economy, social life and the environment.

## Workers' Power

Only the working class has the power to create a society free from exploitation, oppression and want. Liberation can be won only through the struggles of workers themselves, organised independently of all other classes and fighting for real workers' power - a new kind of state based on democratically elected workers' councils. China and Cuba, like the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, have nothing to do with socialism. They are repressive state capitalist regimes. We support the struggles of workers against every ruling class.

## Revolution Not Reformism

Despite the myth of parliamentary democracy, the structures of parliament, the army, the police and the judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class majority. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against workers. There is no parliamentary road to socialism.

## Internationalism

Workers in every country are exploited by capitalism, so the struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We oppose everything that divides workers of different countries. We oppose all immigration controls. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries. We oppose imperialism and support all genuine national liberation struggles.

## Liberation From Oppression

We fight for democratic rights. We are opposed to the oppression of women, Maori, Pacific Islanders, gays and lesbians. These forms of oppression are used to divide the working class. We support the right of all oppressed groups to organise for their own defence. All these forms of liberation are essential to socialism and impossible without it.

## Tino Rangatiratanga

We support the struggle for tino rangatiratanga. Maori capitalists and politicians have no interest in achieving tino rangatiratanga for working class Maori. The Government and corporate warriors' approach to Treaty claims has benefited a Maori elite while doing little for working class Maori. Tino rangatiratanga cannot be achieved within capitalism. It will only become a reality with the establishment of a workers' state and socialist society.

## Revolutionary Organisation

To achieve socialism, the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party. Such a party can only be built by day-to-day activity in the mass organisations of the working class. We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions. We are beginning to build such a party, linking the ideas of revolutionary socialism to workers' struggles against the system. If you agree with our ideas and want to fight for socialism, we urge you to join us.

# We hope you've enjoyed this issue of Socialist Review.

*Socialist Review is the journal of the International Socialist Organisation, and it aims to provide a voice for the interests of working class New Zealanders.*

With each passing year, the decay of the parliamentary left becomes more apparent and our task more urgent. Last election marked the end of the road for the Alliance; while the Greens or Labour have consistently failed to address growing hardship and inequality. The International Socialists are a small organization but we punch above our weight. The magazine is a crucial part of our work. We'd like to

thank you for your support, but also offer you the opportunity to deepen that support with a subscription to the magazine or even better, a solidarity subscription.

Of course we welcome renewed subscriptions at the basic rate of \$15 for three issues, but this rate barely covers printing and postage costs. We encourage you to help us reach a wider audience by paying a solidarity subscription of \$30.

*Please remember that we welcome all feedback and letters to the editor.*

If you have any queries please e-mail [contact@iso.org.nz](mailto:contact@iso.org.nz),

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# Australia's genocide policy



*And if they [Aborigines] be a dying race, let us hope that in their last hours they will be able to recognise not simply the justice, but the generosity of the treatment which the white race, who are dispossessing them and entering into their heritage, are according them."*

*1901 Parliamentary address of Australia's first Attorney-General, Alfred Deakin.*

The first century of European occupation of Aboriginal land took an enormous toll on the Indigenous population. At the time of invasion it is estimated that there were 750,000 Aborigines. By the 1920s the number had plummeted to 60,000. Perhaps 20,000 were killed directly through the violent confrontations of the frontier wars, which spread across the continent over more than 100 years as the settlers attempted to consolidate a series of colonies. The new diseases that the whites brought - smallpox, measles, influenza, the effects of which were probably exacerbated by dispossession - overwhelmed most.

## **Privatisation of land**

From the very beginning this was a conflict, not just between blacks and whites, but also between two different economic and social systems. The establishment of capitalism required the privatisation of the land and the logical consequence of this was the complete

overturning of the existing communal way of life of the indigenous population. The way that this played out was particularly brutal in colonial Australia. As the 20th century dawned, the last remaining areas of Aboriginal land were being penetrated as the pastoral industry, which formed the backbone of the early Australian economy, expanded. Aboriginal people were being forced onto reserves, which effectively became open-air prisons as the colonies passed a series of "Protection Acts", such as the Aborigines Act in Western Australia and The Aborigines Protection and the Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act in Queensland.

## **Wards of the state**

These acts reduced the legal status of those on reserves from British subjects to wards of the state, with members of the Protection Boards as their legal guardians. Yet any idea that an independent Australia free from crown rule would usher in a new dawn for Aboriginal

people was quashed with the establishment of the Commonwealth. Section 127 of the Constitution stated, "in reckoning the numbers of people of the Commonwealth...aboriginal natives shall not be counted". And while all colonies had by 1900 granted Aboriginal men the right to vote, that right was denied federally, as were access to a minimum wage, aged and invalid pensions and maternity allowances.

## **Children trafficked into servitude**

All power over Aboriginal people was referred to the States and mediated through their "protection acts", which actually gave the legal basis for an attempted genocide. Under such acts, all except so-called "half-castes" over the age of 16 were under the complete control of the State. They were denied basic freedoms, with many trafficked as indentured servants.